

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ for producing a component by reshaping a coated, ~~preferably aluminum-coated~~ plate of quenched and tempered steel, before reshaping in a first process step, the plate being supplied to a first furnace and being austenitized there and ~~[[the]] a~~ residence time of the plate in the first furnace being chosen such that in addition to the structure transformation an increase in the layer thickness takes place, ~~characterized by the following the~~ method comprising process steps:

- [[-]] rapid cooling and subsequent intermediate storage of ~~[[the]] a~~ heat treated sheet bar ~~[[(1)]]~~,
- [[-]] repeated, brief heating of the sheet bar ~~[[(1)]]~~ in a second furnace ~~[[(11)]]~~ to ~~[[the]] an~~ austenitization temperature directly prior to forming into the component ~~[[(5)]]~~, and
- [[-]] forming and hardening ~~[[of]]~~ the sheet bar ~~[[(1)]]~~ after completed structure transformation.

2. (Currently Amended) The process method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by a~~ wherein the residence time in the first furnace ~~[[(7)]]~~ is between nine minutes and thirty minutes.

3. (Currently Amended) The process method as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the sheet bar ~~[[(1)]]~~ is heated again to ~~[[the]] an~~ austenitization temperature in the second furnace, ~~[[(11)]]~~ ~~the residence time is chosen~~ such that only one structure transformation takes place, but no longer an increase of layer thickness.

4. (Currently Amended) The process method as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized by a~~ wherein a residence time of the sheet bar ~~[[(1)]]~~ in the second furnace is ~~[[(7)]]~~ from ten seconds to two and one half minutes.

5. (Currently Amended) The process method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet bar ~~[[(1)]]~~ is heated in the first furnace ~~by (7) based on~~ electricity or gas, while heating in the second furnace ~~[[(11)]]~~ takes place by induction.

6. (Currently Amended) The process method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first heating takes place at ~~[[the]]~~ a steel or sheet manufacturer, while the second heat treatment takes place at ~~[[the]]~~ a processing company, ~~for example a motor vehicle manufacturer.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The process method as claimed in claim 1, wherein during the second heat treatment the sheet bar ~~[[1]]~~ is heated to different ~~degrees~~ temperatures over its surface.

8. (Currently Amended) The process method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet bar, ~~[[1]]~~ before reheating in the second furnace, ~~[[11]]~~ is locally reinforced by applying at least one reinforcing sheet.

9. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by using a tailored blank as~~ wherein the sheet bar ~~[[1]]~~ is a tailored blank.

10. (Currently Amended) A device ~~Device~~ for carrying out the process ~~as claimed in one of claim 1 claims 1-9, characterized by~~ the device comprising:

- ~~[[-]]~~ a tool ~~[[4]]~~ for producing sheet bars ~~[[1]]~~ from a coil ~~[[3]]~~,
- ~~[[-]]~~ a first furnace ~~[[7]]~~ for initial heat treatment including inducing an increase in the layer thickness of the sheet bars ~~[[1]]~~,
- ~~[[-]]~~ a cooling zone ~~[[8]]~~ for the sheet bars ~~[[1]]~~,
- ~~[[-]]~~ an intermediate storage area for the sheet bars ~~[[1]]~~,
- ~~[[-]]~~ a second furnace ~~[[11]]~~ for repeated heat treatment of the sheet bars ~~[[1]]~~,
- ~~[[-]]~~ a forming/tempering tool ~~[[13]]~~ with a press means ~~[[14]]~~ and a cooling device ~~[[15]]~~,
- ~~[[-]]~~ a trimming device ~~[[17]]~~ for producing a trimmed finish contour and holes.

11. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized by~~ wherein the first furnace is an electricity-based and/or gas-based ~~[[first]]~~ furnace (7), and the second furnace is an induction furnace ~~(11) for the second heat treatment.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein an inductor is integrated into the transport device ~~[[(10)]]~~ which is located between the intermediate storage ~~[[(9)]]~~ and the forming/tempering tool ~~[[(13)]]~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 10, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a station for applying at least one reinforcing sheet to the sheet bar between the cooling zone ~~[[(8)]]~~ and the second furnace ~~(11)~~ ~~there is a station for applying, especially by welding, at least one reinforcing sheet to the sheet bar (1).~~

14. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the plate is an aluminum-coated plate.

15. (New) A method of producing a component comprising:
providing a coated sheet of quenched and tempered steel;
shaping the sheet;
heat treating the shaped sheet to perform a first austenitization of the sheet, during which a structure transformation occurs increasing the layer thickness thereof;
cooling and quenching the heat treated sheet;
storing the cooled and quenched sheet;
performing a second heat treatment to perform a second austenitization of the sheet; and
forming the sheet into the component.

16. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the first heat treatment is performed in a gas or electric furnace and/or the second heat treatment is performed in an induction furnace.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising reinforcing the sheet between the heat treatment steps.

18. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the first heat treatment comprises a residence time of between approximately 9 and 30 minutes.

19. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein second heat treatment comprises a residence time of between approximately 10 seconds to two minutes.

20. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein during the second heat treatment step, no change in thickness of the sheet occurs.

21. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the sheet has a martensitic structure following the forming step.

22. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising transporting the sheet from a first location, where the first heat treatment is performed.

23. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the second heat treatment is performed during the transporting.

24. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the second heat treatment comprises heating the sheet to different intensities at different locations thereof.

25. (New) A product produced by the method of claim 15.